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Maury county is celebrating the abolition of its last turnpike.

Senator Kenyon is given credit for the discovery that God is not a pro-

The Russ-German parley applies the acid test to the liberal peace pretensions of the kaiser-

Announcements of the passing of the

blizzard should be taken along with meveral grains of sait. We shall expect soon to hear that

Senator Ollie James has been for pro-

hibition all the time. American troops fear no corcius" as with the boches, but pneumonia is

proving a more fatal enemy. Peru is in the midst of a legislative strike. We would express it in this

country as a filibuster or hegira, The Nashville Banner declares its preference for Senator Shields, but claims knowledge of any million

dollar fund. Since the republicans have declined to bring their old convention to Chattanooga for exhibition purposes,

Bulgaria manifests an inclination to come into camp. Shall German junkerdom be permitted to defeat the making of the decision unanimous?

don't care what becomes of it,

England will make the use of potatoes as an ingredient of bread comilsory. Which seems to suggest that England has the potatoes to use.

The New Republic asks the not altogether new question of "what is poetry?" It is much easier, however, to determine what is not poetry.

Polk county has provided for the establishment of a Carnegie library at Benton, probably the first county institution of the kind in Tennessee.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal defines bolsheviki as "men who want vast army of recruits for the cause

It is only natural that an unsophisticated onlooker in Vienna should feel an interest in the probable effect of a dry Kentucky on the crop of colonels. Ten Mexican army officers executed.

-Headline. Notwithstanding such inroads, the supply of Mexican generals seems equal to ordinary requirements. Senator Bailey objects to women

joining in the making of laws which they cannot obey. But maybe they would try to make laws which they and other folks could obey.

Quoth the New York World. "Good-

by, southern democrats; we've been friends so long." But so far as we have been able to observe, no tears are being shed over the parting. An exchange declares that Trotzky

took his present name from a jailer in Siberia from whom he made his escape. We might have inferred that he took it from the manner of escape.

Ex-Mayor Mitchel has been commissioned a major in the aviation Which reminds us that he was frequently accused by political opponents of association with high

The crown prince is numbered among those who refuse peace without annexations. But the annexation of what he has conquered would not expand the German empire appreciably.

It has been suggested that the food crop situation may compel a restriction of the watermelon acreage. that case, it becomes a question as to whether whipping the kaiser is worth the sacrifice which it involves.

It is again binted that a settlement of the Irish question impends. It will be a marvel, however, little short of of Lloyd George and commits this the miraculous if the frail bark shall country to a continuance in the strugpass between the Scylla of Ulster and sie until the "wrong done" France the Charybdis of Sinn Fein to a safe is "righted." Lloyd George said we anchorage in the harbor of autonomy.

In the course of the debate over the enactment of Tennessee's state-wide prohibition law, a Shelby county representative vehemently declared that Memphis "could not stand it." The New York World now feels very much the same way. It will feel better after a while, however,

for not supplying an army for the war in Europe was based upon the fact that the great distance away makes the cost prohibitive. The reverse of this situation was probably the island kingdom's greatest asset in winning a guick-time victory over Russia, once

ALSACE-LORRAINE.

No other territorial question will

prove as difficult of settlement as Mr. Wilson's "fourteen commandments" contained many which reduce German opposition to peace, what he said about the former French colonies and Poland is being used by the pan-German annexationist party to nerve their countrymen to further resible on the president's words. That they should at the same time be welcomed in France, as a promise to restore the two provinces to the territories of France, further belsters this contention. Herbert Bayard Swone who was in Germany for several from Washington that the view of thinkers there is that the president's message, because of those features, will prolong rather than shorten the

Many other writers, here, in England, and even in Germany, including proach to an adjustment however.

As Alsace-Lorraine is so important,

et us review briefly its history. It was first peopled by Celtic tribes, and, beginning in the fifth century, the of the Rhine. The French gave this Franks came in. Following the Thirty Years' war the provinces were occupied first by Austrian and then by the French armies of Louis XIV. From 1686 the provinces became a part of France. In the 185 years that followed the people became firmly attached to France, politically and socent, of the population, according to the Britannica, speak German la fact indicating how unsafe it is to judge of public sentiment by language alonel. they resisted Von Moltke's armies desperately, and most of the battles of the Franco-Prussian war were and laid heavy money tributes on some of the cities and towns. Such Even when the French assembly at Bordeaux voted to accept the German terms the delegates from these provnces united in a historic protest, government required every inhabitant to accept citizenship or be exourg, although German is the language spoken, French customs pre-

For some time the kaiser alone could initiate legislation in the provincial assembly. This has been corrected. Even yet, however, the two provinces are "crownlands" and are not, strictly speaking, a part of the German federation. They are represented in the reichstag, however,

and have a voice in the bundescath

Bismarck was wise enough to see

that the annexation of these provinces

might cause another war with France. He had difficulty getting his own consent to it. He hoped that the people of the two provinces could be won to Germany, but this did not prove easy. Finally, Prussian resentment at continued resistance caused many acts of rigorous nunishment and this further widened the breach. In a business way, the country has prospered under German control. There has been a tremendous development of the mineral resources, Over 300,000 Germans have come in and made investments. There is an apparent willingness in some quarters in Germany to leave the future of the provinces to a plebiscite. The French answer that so many of the former residents have left their homes that such would not be fair. The people of the provinces have been very restive under their situation, but much of their agitation has been for full fellowship in the German federation, rather than to be transferred back to France. They do not wish to be fought over again. Either autonomy or outright independence would possibly suit them. The area of Alsace-Lorraine is 5,607

1910 was 1,874,014, The language used by the president is significant. It is the same as that would stand by "the French democracy" for this purpose. Remember that he was talking to the British Inbor party and was referring to the similar party in France. That element in France is not insisting accessarily on detaching the two provinces from Germany and adding them to France. They contend for a plebiscite, or the righting of the wrongs of the people of these provinces

through greater liberty. If Mr. Wilson's other terms-disrmament, freedom of the seas, no secret treaties and unrertricted economic relations-are accepted, along tance to the election of the whole with free governments, in the sense legislature. Tennesseans will be very we understand the term everywhere, remiss in their duties if they do not

lives. The best way to right the wrong is to give them back to France, but we doubt if even France itself would fight the war for years more for such a purpose, if all the benefits may be carried to its former citizens in other ways. The British labor

ering as to these provinces. President Wilson has put forth propositions on which the combatants may agree in many other very important respects. On him will likely devolve the solution of this issue of Alsace-Lorraine. In his address to congress on Dec. 4 he indorsed the Russian formula, "No annexations, no contributions, no punitive indemnities." This would seem to require a restoration of the status before the

An extremely important meeting of British labor was held yesterday and the workingmen of the United Kingdom placed themselves on the side of those of Russia in indorsement of the above principles, with the addition of "self-determination" of nations. Of course, this is but another phrase for "consent of the governed," which our president and Lloyd George have used. British labor stands for this principle not only in central Europe, but in Asia and Africa, and this perhaps constitutes the longest step forward of the Anglo-Saxon peoples toward governments in all the British colonies on the same principles as in Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand.

The laborites offer a new and novel suggestion. It is in effect that regions in Palestine, Arabia and Armenia Allemanni overran the lands south be held under a sort of joint international control. In concluding the English working people say:

"Peoples of central Europe: This catastrophe of the human race, this fatal schism in the civilized world can only be ended in the defeat of militarism on both sides and by the victory on both sides of moral and intellectual fair dealing."

No mention of Ireland was made by the labor party. But this will come. The Sinn Feiners are demanding outright independence. This would be as unfortunate for Ireland, probably, as it would be dangerous for England. When the principle of self-government, such as Jefferson taught, is more fully accepted by nations and individual liberty is thoroughly preserved and economic freedom established, there will be less concern over what central government has a nominal control. The idea of democracy in the English-speaking race heretofore has not included the colored peo-It is only just beginning, except in this country, to include the workingmen, and as for the 'women, they have had little if any voice. But the world is studying democracy and self-determination. There are problems which the white race has to solve. We in the south know these and are less intolerant.

GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE.

They are already giving some attention to the selection of candidates for in Tennessee prevails. The Birmingham Ledger, one of the state's sane and clear-headed newspapers, has frequently urged the necessity of care in electing members of the legislature. Every few days it has something sensible and timely to say on the subject. Following is an extract from a

"Even taxes are not the only neces sity for pledging legislators. There are several other things. Each candidate should be pledged not to support any bill that will take more money from the treasury than will ocobably be there, and to make all appropriations dependent on the state of the treasury. Our state's financial affairs are in a shameful condition, which is without excuse. Her own sons have deliberately mismanaged her money, and no state at any time has been so shamefully outraged by its own sons. We should not permit it again. If it be done, it should not only be another violation of the oath of office, but also of publicly made pledges to the men who elected them.

"No matter what pledges candidates may make in secret, they should be made to make pledges in public as to their votes on the finances of the state. They are sent to Montgomery in a fiduciary capacity by the voters, paid from the public treasury, and are servants of the state and the agents of the counties. All of them should be asked publicly their intentions on taxation and appropriations.

"There are yet other matters of importance like reducing the number of officials and arranging duties so that the state may get the use of more of its income. But the finances have become the cancer, and now is the time to remedy that in the nomination of members of the legislature." square miles, and the population in

Very little, if any, better showing could be made out in behalf of the legislature of Tennessec. Appropriations for this or that and salary addltions have been made with apparently little consideration of whether the treasury would have the money forthcoming to pay them. It is only necessary to mention such a proceeding to demonstrate its patent absurdity. The state is essentially a business institution, and no business concern can preserve solvency under such management.

Our opinion coincides with that of the Ledger. The voters of Tennessee have an important task to perform this year in the election of members of the legislature. It is a matter which concerns them vitally. And the election of a competent business man for governor is almost equal in imporit would not moke so much difference give careful attention this year to under which flag Alsace-Lorraine both features.

THE NITRATE CRISIS.

As in the case of water power development, the accessity for the domestic preduction of an adeuate supply of ammonia and nitrates has assumed the proportions of a crisis. The party suggestion of a joint control of regions of Asia may be worth considof ammonia and nitrates to be used in the manufacture of explosives for our army and navy have been greatly under-estimated, and that the gravity of the situation which has been slowly but surely appreaching has not been realized by the majority of the government's advisers."

Notwithstandin the facts that our imports of Chilean nitrates and our production of coke ammonia have both been greatly increased, the demand for these products, consequent upon our entry into the war, has also increased much more rapidly, so that now the government finds itself facing a serious shortage of ammonia nitrate. The ordnance department has accordingly arranger with the Air Nitrate corporation as its agent in the construction and operation of the great Muscle Shoals plant, the site for which was recently determined upon. The officers of the new company or vate organization, the American Cyanamid company, but have practically offered their services and that of their organization to the government in the installation and inauguration of its new plant. Work is already under way according to the engineering journal quoted above, and shipments of nitrates are evpected to begin in six months. This, of course, does not mean that the great power plant necessary will be in operation in that good and hard. time, but provisional arrangements are being made to supply power in the meantime. Neither does it interfere with the erection of the smaller plant at Sheffield, which is sometimes

termed the experimental plant. These developments are in furtherance of the 1916 act of congress appropriating \$20,000,000 for the production of a nitrate supply. A nitrate supply committee was appointed by the secretary of war to study various sources and processes of production of gitrates and nitrate acid. This committee proceeded leisurely and with some elaboration, as is usually the case, and the need developed more rapidly than preparations for the supply. As suggested by this engineering journal, one would not infer from a reading of the nitrate supply committee's report that there was any occasion for haste or urgency. In this connection, the suggestions of President Washburn, of the American Cyanamid company, in 1915, outlining a plan for the production of a supply of nitrates, are sketched and the articles of the Metallurgical and Chemical Engineering concludes as follows:

"These developments bring out two facts. First, that our needs have been greatly underestimated by the majority, and second, that in time of war quick action is needed and no Chemical company's process nor the excellent work done by the nitrate supply committee. It appears, however, that they greatly underestimated our needs and the necessity for quick action, and failed to recommend the use of the bird in the hand, the cyanamid process, which had been thoroughly proved on an immense scale and was already well understood by American engineers. The reader is referred to Nauchkoff's article in our issue of Nev. 1, 1917, which shows the nitrogen resources of the warring

nations very clearly and the part the cyanamid process plays. "It may be perfectly true that the synthetic ammonia process with subsequent exidation of the ammonia to nitric acid would be the most desirable from several standpoints in the long run, but many large-scale problems have yet to be met, and we have no time to wait. If the war continues any length of time we can use more than the output of both the synthetic ammonia and the cyanamid plants. Mr. Washburn estimated in 1916 that a plant such as is new being built at Muscle Shoals would produce the equivalent of 180,000 tons of nitric acid per year. We are not permitted at present to go into further details as to the government's needs and the new plant, but we have very good reasons to believe that even this plant will be inadequate to meet our needs in a short time, so rapidly are they increasing."

We cannot refrain from suggesting in passing, that water power legislation is following much the same course as was the case with the movement for government nitrate production. Congress dawdles while the country suffers. The war brought a sudden and immense increase in the demand for industrial power, and, while the output of the coal mines has been considerably augmented, it has not been equal to the increased demand. Hence the congestion, confusion and consequent suffering incident to an extremely severe winter. The prudent man foreseeth the evil

and the imminent need of the adequate development of the hydro-electric power of cur rivers is no longer a debatable issue. Any further appreciable celay on the part of congress should not-and will pot-be condoned It may yet become necessary for the government to get behind the movement and itself inaugurate this great

Congressman Clark, of Florida, joins the morning paper in resisting the authority of the president to dictate party policy to congress. They are probably both correct as amatter of abstract right, but we are not much impressed with the occasion chosen for asserting it.

A TIMELY INQUIRY. The Columbia Herald indulges the

following interesting query: "The Chattanooga News 'ntimates that the state railroad commission is an unnecessary department of state curent number of Metallurgical and government. But what are we going Chemical Engineering declares that it to do with our prominent party leadis now apparent that our requirements ers who have failed to break into the senate and elsewhere, if there is no railroad commission seat for them?"

It might be that we could use several of them as majors in the army, and in the event the government takes over the production and distribution of peanuts, an almost limitless field would be provided for the exercise of their talents. We recognize the obligation of the country to furnish jobs for its statesmen.

The government will probably be pa tient with you in the hing of your income tax schedules inasmuch as it has been so puzzled itself over the meaning of the law as to make it delinquent in furnishing the necessary blanks.

The referendum of the United States Chamber of Commerce on a proposal to warn German business interests that future friendly relations are contingent upon a greater popularizing of the German government corporation are at the head of a pri- may appear a cumbersome sort of process, but it is strictly in line with democracy.

> An exchange informs us that the year 1917 closed with an aggregate annual temperature of 900 degrees below the average. We might, however, be able to adjust ourselves to this untoward record it 1918 was showing any disposition to make up for it. But the purpose seems to be to rub it in

Good News From Japan. (Louisville Post.)

The New York Financial Chronicle publishes a brief sketch of recent events in Japan, the substance of which is, on the whole, so encouraging as to cause the casual reader to fear that it should be classed as among those things that are too good

o be true. The most important development as recorded relates to the connection be-tween China and Japan, and here we are told "a marked improvement" has taken place. The Japanese govern-ment has not receded from its position that it must assist the Chinese government "to establish and maintain stability in China," but several Peking newspapers are quoted as saying that the Japanese commissioners and military officers in China are acting in a considerate and reasonable fashion, and that the fears of Japanese aggression in China are abat-

It would certainly be a piece of exraordinarily good luck for the world should China and Japan be able to compose their differences upon a of Japan allowing to China political years past there has been an uneasy all over the world in regard to the far east. at least feared, that Japan was systhe Asiatic mainland, with the purpose of securing not only additional territory for herself at the present time, but such exclusive trade privisible that another danger to the peacof the world might arise time can be lost in experimentation or the European war is ended. If it, in-Couldn't America supply a departed to beloved France. Metz is my of recruits for the cause? a typically French city. In Strass world will be large.

Various other facts are noted rela-tive to Japan, which seem most important. Among these is the stead rowth of an antimilitaristic party. s not true, although many people in this country believe it, that the Japanese nation is obsessed with the same man's for world domination as served to bring the German empire to grief. Japan has her militarists, sword-rattlers, her annexationists, but a desire for democratic institutions is spreading in Japan, and with that sentiment hostility to militarism.

The most important internal moveent in Japan, however, is in regard to educational reform, and the largest phase of this is for higher education for Japanese girls. "The war," so reads the report of the Japanese Educational association, "has proved that women are not the inferiors of men in many branches of human activity."
This, according to the American idea, is putting it a little mildly. that "in many branches of activity" women are "not inferior" to men would hardly satisfy many people of whom we have knowledge. At any rate, the great energy that is being shown and the large appropriations shown and the large appropriations that are being made to extend high school and collegiate education for girls in Japan is, of all the things that have happened in the Orient in the last quarter of a century, least like the things that had gone

COMES TO SEARCH FOR HER HUSBAND

Mrs. Amanda Phillips, of Phil Campbell, Ala., is in Chattanooga searching for her husband, who she says left home Oct 8, 1917, and has not returned. She says he left home to go to the home of his son, Gus Phillips, twelve miles distant, in order to collect some money from the son and his brother-in-law, Mannie Allbright. He never arrived at either place, so Mrs. Phillips was informed. She says her husband is 50 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches tall, weight 160 pounds, dark brown eyes and iron gray hair. He was shaven and has a small scar on his left check. He wore a dark gray suit. The police are assisting Mrs. Philips in the search for her husband, and any information concerning him can be communicated to the police.

HARDWOOD DEALERS OFFER THEIR SERVICES Willing to Aid in Expediting Delivery of Needed Hardwood Materials.

Memphis, Jan. 16 -Resolutions were dopted by the Southern Hardwood Traffic association in session here yes traine association in session here yes-terday tendering the services of the association to W. G. McAdoo in ex-pediting the delivery of hardwood ma-terials needed by the government for the successful prosecution of the war. in the distribution of equipment for commercial purposes and the prompt bandling of all shipments of southern

The election of officers resulted in selection of James E. Stark Mem-s, president; R. L. Jourdan, Mem-s, first vice-president, and a long ist of directors.

Itst of directors.

The secretary and other officers will be elected by the board of directors.

Several other fumber associations will hold sensions here during the remainder of the week

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE



THE JARR FAMILY

By Roy L. McCardell

(Copyright, 1917, by the Press Publishing Co. The New York Evening World.) be a meeting of

Society to ress Jazz Bands for the Duration of the War' at Mrs. Styver's, out I do not think I'll go," said Mrs. Jarr. "In the first place I have noth-

place Lirs. Sope is starting 'A Drive for a Million Dollar Emergency Fund for the Ladies' Wartime Knitting League,' and I can't attend both affairs."

"Attend them both by all means," suggested Mr. Jarr. "I am interested in The Drive for the Bullet-Proof Boys'-it is to drive them out of their desks and into the trenches. "I never heard of the bullet-proof boys," remarked Mrs. Jarr. "What are they?"

They are the hundreds of husky young men of good families and bet-ter influences who have de jobs and commissions in Washington, Mr. Jarr explained.

say!" cried Mrs. Jarr. "That sounds disloyal and pro-German!"

"I suppose it does," replied Mr. Jarr, "and I'll take your advice. But if the ay ever comes that one can offer any faint criti.ism without being so accused, remember I saw it first." "Oh, you see too "ch!" exclaimed Mrs. Jarr petulantly. "You are as bad as Mrs. Sope, who claims Mrs. Stry-

ver's 'Society to Suppress Jazz Bands for the Duration of the "ar' is alien propaganda bec.use M.s. laughed when Mrs. Sope claimed the Germans broke the arms off the Venus de Milo in the Louvre when they captured Paris in 1871. Mrs. Stryver believes it was done by some servant girl dusting it." At this instant the door bell rang

and Mrs. Jarr admitted that dashing young society matron, Mrs. Clara Mudridge-Smith, who was closely for by the unfashionable Dusenberry, the little old lady from indiana.

"I was just telling Mr. Jarr about Mrs. Sope's belief as to now the Venus de Milo lost her arms," sad Mrs. Jarr after she had welcomed her guests. Old Mrs. Dusenberry looked mysti-fied, while Mrs. Mudridge-Smith smiled indulgently. "It was most succinctly explained by

Josephine Blessington Blot at the Current Events club," said Mrs. Mudridge-Smith. "At the Current Events club we make it a rule to only discuss the problems of antiquity, and the subject under consideration at the last meeting was 'How Did the Venus de Milo o. Her .rms?' Josephine Blessington Blotch made the startling suggestion that this mutilated masterplece symbolized the fact that woman disarmed herself when she tor off the fetters of feminity. Ah, if all we women could-without disarming ourselves-but tear off the fetters that bin. . s, golden fetters though they be -t..e shackles of loveless marriage for some—the fetters that sear!"

"Oh, shacks!" rema. d the old lady fror: Indiana. "You idle young married women make me tired, especially in terrible times like these, when you all should be doing something useful! "When I was your age, young womar," she added, still directing her speec! at Mrs. Mudridge-Smith, "the Civil war broke out and my husband went off to be a soldier, and I had fetters than that Veenie more gal you've been talking about, I bet!

"I had two small children as fetters nd I ad to keep boarders as fetters, and feed pigs as fetters, ad milk cows as 'etters, and blie soa, as fetters, and now, in my old age, I'm runscutning around trying to borrow a tle full of coal or four or five lumps of sugar as fetters! And ow I drop in for this last purpose and hear you weing through such foolish talk!" "Times change and con uons change

d people change, Mrs. Dusenberry,

remarked the opulent young matron M: Mudridge-Smith, oldly. conditions "Times change and chang , but people don't c'ange," said the old lady from Indiana. "When I was a young wom n and the Civil war broke out. I heard just as much foolish talk from foolish people as I hear now when this greater war is raging lest like what is set forth in Revelations. Yes, I hear the san foolish this gs and I see the same selfish

things is I saw over fifty years ago. Them days young wimmen like you talked the same foolish talk, with gold

"There's going to! rings on their fingers, while poor men of went off to war leaving wives and chil-to dren behind, and selfish men hired zz substitutes. Yes, times change, but Du-people don't. And if Mrs. Jarr will let me have a couple of lumps of sugar I'll be on my way!'

She got her sugar and departed, while Mrs. Mudridge-Smith protested that the working classes were getting completely spoiled by the bi; wages ing to wear, and they had been getting since the war

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